

**JOINT MEETING OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TRUST**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, May 8, 2015, at 8:00 a.m., William M. Davies, Jr.
Career and Technical High School, 50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island**

The first joint meeting of the Career and Technical Board of Trustees (“Board of Trustees”) and the Career and Technical Education Trust (“CTE Trust”) was called to order by Al Lubrano, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Lisa Bisaccia, President of the CTE Trust.

Members and Attendees:

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Bob Baldwin, Bill Bryan, Tim Byrne, Shannon Carroll, Victoria Gailliard-Garrick, Stephen Osborn, Raymond Johnson, Al Lubrano, Bill McCourt, Jeannine Nota-Masse, Peter Petrarca, Stefan Pryor, Jim Purcell, Kathie Shields.

The following members of the Board of Trustees were absent: Michael Grey.

The following members of the CTE Trust were present: Lisa Bisaccia, Maura Dunn, Brenna Force, John Gregory, Bill McCourt, Stefan Pryor, David Rampone, Martin Trueb.

The following members of the CTE Trust were absent: Stephanie Federico.

The following members of the public and invited guests were in attendance: Joyce Anderle, Rhode Island Department of Education; Nancy Diaz Bain, Co-Director of the MET School; Vanessa Cooley, Rhode Island Department of Education; Gary Ezovski, owner of Lincoln Environmental Properties, LLC; Colleen Jermain, Superintendant of Newport Public Schools; Sharon Lee, Rhode Island Department of Education; Julie O’Connell, Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training; Paul McConnell, Rhode Island Department of Education; Paul Williams, Rhode Island Department of Education.

Introductions:

The members of the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust, as well as the members of the public and guests in attendance, briefly introduced themselves by name and occupation.

Open Meetings:

Commerce Secretary Pryor explained that the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust must follow open meeting laws.

Acceptance of the Agenda for Today's Meeting:

The floor was opened for comments on the proposed meeting agenda. No comments were made. Upon motion by Mr. McCourt and seconded by Mr. Gregory, it was unanimously **VOTED: To accept the agenda for the meeting.**

Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees:

Mr. Lubrano stated that students of career and technical education schools should be able to obtain \$40,000 to \$70,000 jobs upon graduation. We should establish career and technical schools to which students are competing to gain admission. He wants to see these schools opened up to students in other New England states, who will be required to pay tuition to attend. He stated that there is a lack of talented workforce to fill manufacturing jobs, and that we have an opportunity to fill the void.

Report of the President of the CTE Trust:

Ms. Bisaccia seeks to create partnerships among industry and career and technical educational institutions to ensure that graduates of career and technical schools have a variety of opportunities and a living wage. Her aspirational vision is for the CTE Trust to have a big goal and make a difference in incremental ways.

Establishing a Vision Statement for the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust:

The floor was opened for discussion on the establishment of a joint vision statement for the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust.

Mr. Baldwin stated that there is a critical need for construction jobs, but educational institutions are not providing workers at career-ready levels. He suggests that we create a statewide system of workforce training that graduates students regardless of age that are career- or college-ready with no skills gap. He sees the opportunity to hold worker re-training at career and technical schools on nights, weekends, and summers, when the schools are vacant.

Mr. Gregory discussed the Davies model of academic learning and technical training through an integrated curriculum.

Mr. McCourt stated that the focus should not necessarily be about preparing students to go to college.

Mr. Osborn stated that there are 10 career and technical education schools in Rhode Island, two of which have separate boards, the other eight of which do not have separate boards. There are also several comprehensive high schools in Rhode Island, which offer career and technical education classes.

Ms. Dunn stated that the vision statement should include language that the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust are in alignment with businesses.

Mr. Trueb stated that we are over-focused on the process and are not remembering that we are here to prepare the next generation, so the focus needs to be on individuals. He stated that society denigrates those who do not have bachelors' degrees, so we need to hold up career and technical schools as a good opportunity that allow students to make more money upon graduation.

Mr. Rampone stated that perception is a problem—parents do not look at career and technical schools as a good option.

Mr. Lubrano stated that if students are competing to get into career and technical schools, as in Germany, it will change peoples' perceptions.

Mr. McCourt stated that the vision statement should reflect that our focus is not just on high-tech jobs.

Mr. Lubrano stated that we should focus on three industries initially and identify the industries that cannot find qualified people.

Mr. Gregory wondered whether we should identify the three industries or work with others to identify those industries.

Commissioner Purcell stated that the State should be unified as to what industries will receive emphasis.

Ms. Shields stated that the word "high-tech" should not be in the vision statement. What is missing from the vision statement is that we need to prepare students to be continual learners.

Ms. Jermain stated that the vision statement should include language regarding the public and private sectors coming together.

Ms. Bisaccia suggested a vision statement: "To create an education system to prepare students to meet the evolving employment needs of the private sector."

Ms. Nota-Masse stated that career and technical education has an image problem in Rhode Island and is a tough sell.

Mr. Johnson stated that most people have a vision of their children going to college, so we need to educate parents while their children are at a young age that career and technical education is an option.

Ms. Gailliard-Garrick stated that when Davies adopted a pre-engineering robotics program, the number of visitors to Davies increased. Parents need to see that the programs at career and technical schools are quality, and we have to publicize tech programs. She stated that we also need to focus on students who are not the cream of the crop, because career and technical education is their salvation.

Mr. McCourt stated that we need to emphasize that you do not necessarily need to go to college if you go to a career and technical school.

Mr. Rampone stated that we need to tell parents about the jobs and incomes that graduates of career and technical schools can obtain.

Commissioner Purcell stated that the legislation was designed to make sure that business and industry influenced the curriculum.

Ms. Gailliard-Garrick stated that 95% of Davies' curriculum is aligned with industry—it is national industry-based curriculum.

Mr. Ezovski stated that we must change the system that supports career and technical education schools.

Ms. Bisaccia repeated the draft vision statement: "To create an education system to prepare students to meet the evolving employment needs of the private sector." Upon motion by Mr. McCourt and seconded by Mr. Gregory, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the joint vision statement of the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust.

Overview of the Board of Trustees' and CTE Trust's Responsibilities:

Mr. Osborn stated that the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust have the same goal but different functions. The Board of Trustees has a policy role. The Board of Trustees is developing a plan on career and technical education and will distribute funding for career and technical education in three ways: per pupil funding, Perkins funding, and categorical funding provided by the General Assembly. Mr. Osborn noted that career and technical education is more expensive than college preparatory education. Career and technical education needs change, so we need a plan to update the system and expand the public-private collaboration. The Board of Trustees can assume the management of certain schools if it feels appropriate to do so.

Mr. Osborn stated that the CTE Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is new to public education. The CTE Trust has no connection to the Rhode Island government. The purpose of the CTE Trust is to fundraise and create partnerships, and it does not need to go through bureaucracy to do so. Moving forward, the Governor will not fill vacant seats on the CTE Trust.

Establishing Action Items and Responsibilities:

Mr. Lubrano stated that we should identify what jobs are unfilled in the industry. He suggests that we pick three industries: healthcare, manufacturing, and one other industry.

Mr. Trueb stated that the Governor's Workforce Board and the Department of Labor and Training have already done a lot of work on industry needs.

Ms. Shields stated that IT is an issue because industries are desperate for IT workers.

Mr. Ezovski states that the Board of Trustees should establish advisory groups, and that we should not forget to reach out to tech directors.

Mr. Trueb and Mr. McCourt will report back at the next meeting on what has already been done so we can establish the three industries of focus.

Mr. Baldwin will inquire within the Rhode Island Department of Education with regard to the three industries of focus.

Visits to Schools:

Mr. Osborn stated that the goal is to visit every career and technical school in Rhode Island over the next year. He notes that we cannot talk about official business on these tours because of the open meeting laws.

Ms. Bisaccia stated that information regarding school visits would be forthcoming by email.

Upon motion and seconded, the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenna A. Force
Secretary, CTE Trust